



CITY OF KIRKLAND
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425-587-3000

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks and Community Services
Jen Boone, Human Services Manager
Amanda Judd, Human Services Coordinator, Community Well-being

Date: September 15, 2025

Subject: **2025 National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, proclaims October 2025 as “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in Kirkland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is acknowledged every October to promote an active community response against the insidious and pervasive presence of domestic violence.
- Acknowledging domestic violence also provides an opportunity to reflect on statistics and promote resources and support for domestic violence victims and survivors.
- Proclaiming October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in Kirkland encourages all community members to be aware of resources that are available to help end domestic violence and its brutal and destructive effects.
- This proclamation is part of the City Council’s adopted 2025-2026 Proclamation Schedule.

BACKGROUND:

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence, honoring survivors, remembering victims, and uniting efforts to end abuse in all its forms. Acknowledged annually, it provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to work together to educate the public, support those affected, and advocate for systemic change. The theme for 2025 is “With Survivors, Always” and highlights what it means to be in partnership with survivors toward safety, support, and solidarity.

Domestic violence affects people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, racial, ethnic, cultural, social, religious, and economic groups. It is more than just physical abuse. It is a pattern of behavior that one person uses to gain power and control over the other. These

behaviors can include isolation from friends and family, emotional abuse, monitoring and stalking, controlling finances, and physical and sexual assault. Domestic violence is a widespread and deeply rooted public health crisis. Its impacts are not only immediate but long-lasting, affecting victims' physical and mental health, economic security, and overall well-being.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Impacts of Domestic Violence

Data collected by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)¹ indicates that 41% of women and 32% of men in Washington reported experiencing violence from an intimate partner.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline² provides the following statistics about domestic violence reported within the United States:

- Over 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Two-thirds (66.2%) of female stalking victims were stalked by current or former intimate partners.
- The most common stalking tactic experienced by both female (78.8%) and male (75.9%) victims of stalking was repeated unwanted phone calls, voice, or text messages.
- 1 in 10 high school students has experienced physical violence from a dating partner in the past year.
- Children witnessed violence in nearly 1 in 4 (22%) intimate partner violence cases filed in state courts.
- One study found that children exposed to violence in the home were 15 times more likely to be physically and/or sexually assaulted than the national average.
- 96% of employed domestic violence victims experience problems at work because of the abuse. Domestic violence issues lead to nearly 8 million lost days of paid work each year, the equivalent of over 32,000 full-time jobs.
- The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%. More than half of women killed by gun violence are killed by family members or intimate partners.

Support for Survivors

As part of its ongoing commitment to be "With Survivors, Always," the City supports several programs to ensure resources and supports are available to Kirkland residents experiencing domestic violence. For the 2025-2026 biennium budget, the City invested \$459,606 in human services grant funding to local non-profit organizations that provide emergency shelter, housing, crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, referrals, and community education to survivors.³

¹ <https://wscadv.org/news/national-intimate-partner-sexual-violence-survey/>

² <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

³ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-and-Community-Services/Human-Services/Human-Services-Dashboard/2025-Funded-Programs>

In addition, the City provides responsive support following reports of domestic violence through the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART). The DART program is a partnership between the Kirkland Police Department and community volunteers to support survivors and prevent domestic violence. DART volunteers provide crisis intervention and support to domestic violence survivors after there has been Police involvement. Through empathetic listening and non-judgmental support, DART volunteers support survivors throughout the court process by providing information on the criminal justice system and connecting to needed resources that may include shelter, food, clothing, and creating a safety plan.

The City also invests in a full-time Domestic Violence Advocate (DVA), who plays a vital role in supporting survivors of domestic violence through intervention, advocacy, and coordination of services within the criminal justice system. In addition to assessing safety concerns, providing crisis intervention, and developing comprehensive safety plans, the DVA acts as a liaison between the survivor and the legal system, ensuring the survivor's rights and needs are respected and communicated through the legal process. The DVA also coordinates the DART program, and these collective efforts ensure that survivors are not alone and have a voice throughout every stage of the legal and recovery process.

For resources available to those seeking services and help, please explore the following:

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available for call, chat, or text 24 hours every day at 800-799-7233 or 800-787-3224 (TTY) if there are concerns of monitored internet usage.
- LifeWire, the leading Eastside provider of domestic violence services, encourages survivors, friends, and families needing assistance to call the LifeWire Helpline at 425-562-8840 and visit the agency's website.⁴
- Consejo Counseling and Referral Services specializes in providing services in Spanish for Latinx survivors, integrating behavioral health care with empowerment programs. More information is available by calling 206-461-4880 or visiting the agency's website.⁵
- The Peace in the Home Helpline provides services in 14 languages within King County. To access, call 888-847-7205.⁶
- The Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) has a domestic violence program that includes social services, advocacy, and family law legal services. Find out more by calling 206-721-0243 or online.⁷
- The National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline serves survivors through a video phone hotline at 855-812-1001.⁸
- The Network/La Red provides support for LGBTQ+ communities including referrals, safety planning, and crisis intervention through their hotline at 800-832-1901.⁹

⁴ www.lifewire.org

⁵ <https://consejocounseling.org>

⁶ <https://find-human-services.kingcounty.gov/search/ab447c55-2909-5d87-924c-c07c3b354e04>

⁷ <https://www.rewa.org/services/domestic-violence>

⁸ <https://www.thedeafhotline.org>

⁹ <https://www.tnlr.org/en/24-hour-hotline/>

- For more information about domestic violence, statistics, and educational materials, please explore information and materials from the following organizations and resources:
- Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence¹⁰
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence¹¹
- Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence¹²
- Center for Disease Control Intimate Partner Violence Prevention¹³

NEXT STEPS:

Following issuance of the proclamation for “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in Kirkland, staff will publish the proclamation along with supporting materials.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation

¹⁰ <https://endgv.org/>

¹¹ <https://ncadv.org>

¹² <https://wscadv.org/resources/friends-family-guide>

¹³ <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/prevention/index.html>



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2025

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pervasive public health and safety issue that affects individuals of all ages, genders, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds, with lasting impacts on survivors, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, 41% of women and 32% of men in Washington State reported experiencing violence from an intimate partner, making it vital that domestic violence and its devastating effects be addressed with compassion, urgency, and resolve; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland invests in the efforts of local organizations, such as LifeWire and Consejo Counseling, and proudly recognizes the critical work of legal advocates and law enforcement who, together with community programs, provide lifesaving support, legal assistance, prevention education, and safe shelter to survivors of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable community where all people, regardless of background, can live free from fear, violence, and coercion; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence educational materials and support resources may be found online at organizations such as the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Center for Disease Control Intimate Partner Violence Prevention; and

WHEREAS, during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we call upon residents to join with others nationwide in supporting survivors, along with programs, coalitions, and organizations committed to increasing public awareness and education to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland recognizes that addressing domestic violence requires the collective efforts and voices of individuals, families, institutions, and systems across all sectors to create a future where safety and dignity are the standard for every person.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims October 2025 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kirkland, and encourages all community members to stand “With Survivors, Always” and engage in learning, reflection, and action to end domestic violence.

Signed this 7th day of October, 2025

Kelli Curtis, Mayor